

a document group analysis device to classify a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents by determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced, and for extracting information about classification as document group information;

E a document group keyword extraction device to extract keywords contained in a body of a document forming part of each group of documents by referring to the document group information; and

a document group keyword display device to display a title of each document in each group of documents and the keywords extracted from the body of the document corresponding to the title by said document group keyword extraction device, the title and the keywords being displayed in areas related to each other.

62 4217 8. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A relevant document display apparatus for displaying a group of documents containing cross-referenced message documents contributed to at least one of a forum and a message board established through a computer network, the cross-referenced message documents having a cross-referenced relationship in which a document contributed earlier is referenced by documents contributed afterwards, said apparatus comprising:

a document group analysis device to classify a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents by determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced, and for extracting information about classification as document group information;

a topic analysis device to further classify each group of cross-referenced documents based on topics extracted from each document forming part of each group of cross-referenced documents, and to extract information about further classification as topic classification information;

a topic keyword extraction device to extract keywords contained in a body of each document relevant to each topic obtained by the further classification of each of the groups of documents by referring to the document group information and the topic classification information; and

a topic keyword display device to display a title of each document relevant to each topic obtained by the further classification and the keywords extracted from the body of each document corresponding to each title by said topic keyword extraction device, the title and the

keywords being displayed in areas related to each other.

9. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A relevant document display method for displaying a group of documents containing cross-referenced message documents contributed to at least one of a forum and a message board established through a computer network and having a cross-referenced relationship in which a document contributed earlier is referenced by documents contributed afterwards, said method comprising:

42
classifying a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents by determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced;

extracting information about classification as document group information;

extracting keywords contained in a body of a document forming part of each group of documents by referring to the document group information; and

displaying a title of each document in each group of documents and the keywords extracted from the body of the document corresponding to the title, the title and the keywords being displayed in areas related to each other.

11. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A relevant document display method for displaying a group of documents containing cross-referenced message documents contributed to at least one of a forum and a message board established through a computer network and having a cross-referenced relationship in which a document contributed earlier is referenced by documents contributed afterwards, said method comprising:

43
classifying a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents by determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced;

extracting information about classification as document group information;

extracting document attribute information about an attribute of each document from a plurality of documents forming the set of documents; and

displaying cross-references in each group of documents in a tree structure in which the document attribute information or abbreviated information for each document forming part of the group of documents is displayed at each node by referring to the document group information and the document attribute information.

64 16. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A relevant document display method for displaying a group of documents containing cross-referenced message documents contributed to at least one of a forum and a message board established through a computer network and having a cross-referenced relationship in which a document contributed earlier is referenced by documents contributed afterwards, said method comprising:

classifying a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents by determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced;

extracting information about classification as document group information;

further classifying each of the classified group of documents based on topics extracted from each document forming part of each group of documents, and extracting information about further classification as topic classification information;

extracting keywords contained in a body of each document relevant to each topic obtained by the further classification of each group of cross-referenced documents by referring to the document group information and the topic classification information; and

displaying a title of each document relevant to each topic obtained by the further classification and the keywords extracted from the body of each document corresponding to each title, the title and the keywords being displayed in areas related to each other.

17. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions to direct a computer to perform a method for displaying a group of documents containing cross-referenced message documents contributed to at least one of a forum and a message board established through a computer network and having a cross-referenced relationship in which a document contributed earlier is referenced by documents contributed afterwards, said method comprising:

classifying a plurality of documents forming a set of documents into at least one group of cross-referenced documents by determining for each document in the set, which of the documents is referenced;

extracting information about classification as document group information;

extracting keywords contained in a body of a document forming part of each group of documents by referring to the document group information; and

displaying a title relevant to each group of documents and the corresponding keywords extracted from the bodies of the group of documents.